THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Government do not propose to impose a 10 per cent cut in the salaries of the Central Government Employees.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Export of Extracts of Ornamental Plants

737. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large scale exports of extracts of some commonly ornamental plants such as rose, jasmine etc., are being made by illicit traders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Flower extracts like rose and jasmine concentrates are freely allowed for exports under the current Export Policy. The Government are not aware of any large scale exports of these extracts by illicit traders.

[*Translation*]

Widening of G.T. Road in Sasaram

738. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds for widening of G.T. Road in Sasaram city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which work on this road is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Four laning of National Highway No. 2 through Sasaram city is included in Annual Plan 1991-92 for sanction. The work will commence after issue of sanction and the award of contract. As such, it is too early to say when the widening work will actually start.

[*English*]

Crisis in Handloom Industry in Kerala

739. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any crisis in handloom industry in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the development of handloom industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala submitted a note on the problems faced by the handloom industry in the State. The note highlighted the following major issues:-

(i) Fluctuation and hike in price of raw material;

(ii) Deficit in the production of finer

count hank yarn within the State;

(iii) Competition in marketing handloom products with the products of powerloom and mill sector and effective implementation of Reservation Policy; and

(iv) Resource constraints under the Kerala State Handloom Workers Welfare Fund.

(d) Increase in prices of cotton yarn has been largely due to increase in raw cotton prices and is also linked to overall inflation. The spinning mills in the State and co-operative sector have been directed not to sway with the market forces but exercise restraint in prices. The spinning mills in the private sector have also been pursuaded to supply yarn to handloom weavers at moderately reduced prices. The State Government has been asked to keep in view the demand within the State from handloom weavers for finer counts of yarn for the spinning mills proposed to be set up by them in the State sector/cooperative sector. The Handloom Reservation Act and Orders issued thereunder had been earlier stayed by a number of High Courts. Government is vigorously pursuing the case in Supreme Court where the case is now pending for expeditious vacation of stay. As regards the request of State Government to contribute funds to the Kerala State Handloom Workers Welfare Fund, Central Government currently has not scheme which provides for release of funds to State Government sponsored Welfare Schemes. Government of Kerala has, therefore, been advised to switch over to the centrally Sponsored Welfare Schemes after considering the benefits accruing from the State's Welfare Scheme.

[*Translation*]

Loans given by Nationalised Banks for Agricultural and Rural Development

741. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans advanced by the nationalised banks for agricultural and rural development during 1991, State-wise;

(b) the amount of loans recovered by banks therefrom; and

(c) the amount of outstanding loans at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The compilation and collection of these figures is a time consuming process. The State-wise total amount of direct agricultural advances disbursed and outstanding as also amounts received by Scheduled Commercial Banks during the year ending June, 1989 (latest available) is given in the attached statement